

What is claimed is:

1. An image sending device having a sending means for sending a medical image, to which supplementary information including patient privacy information is attached, to an external device, comprising:

a separating means for separating the medical image into the supplementary information and an image body; and

a transmission control means for controlling the sending means so that the sending means sends the supplementary information using a higher security transmission method compared to a transmission method for sending the image body.

2. The image sending device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the higher security transmission method is a transmission method that encrypts the supplementary information using a more sophisticated encryption method compared to an encryption method for encrypting the image body.

3. The image sending device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the higher security transmission method is a transmission method for sending the supplementary information using a higher security communication circuit compared to a communication circuit for sending the image body.

4. The image sending device as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

a selection accepting means for accepting a selection of a first transmission method that encrypts the supplementary information using a more sophisticated encryption method

compared to an encryption method for encrypting the image body  
and/or a second transmission method for sending the  
supplementary information using a higher security  
communication circuit compared to a communication circuit for  
5 sending the image body as the high security transmission  
method; wherein:

the transmission control means controls the sending  
means so that the sending means sends the supplementary  
information using the transmission method which has been  
10 accepted by the selection accepting means.

5. An image receiving device comprising:

a receiving means for receiving the supplementary  
information and the image body which have been sent by the image  
sending device as defined in Claim 1; and

15 an associating means for associating the supplementary  
information with the image body.

6. An image sending device having a sending means for  
sending a medical image, to which supplementary information  
including patient privacy information is attached, to an  
20 external device, comprising:

a separating means for separating the medical image into  
the supplementary information and an image body; and

a transmission control means for controlling the sending  
means so that the sending means sends only the image body.

25 7. The image sending device as defined in Claim 6,  
further comprising a recording means for recording the

supplementary information in a recording medium.

8. The image sending device as defined in Claim 6,  
further comprising:

a print-out means for printing out the supplementary  
5 information.